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3.08 GOD CHOOSES GIDEON

JUDGES 6

The Israelites were God's chosen people. He took care of them as Moses led them to the promised land of Canaan. God worked miracles so, they could have plenty to eat and stay safe and healthy as they traveled. But the people did not always obey. Once they got to Canaan, sometimes they would obey God and sometimes they would not. It often depended on their leaders. Some years, they had good leaders. Some years, they had bad leaders. Many times, the Israelites did evil things in the sight of God.

Once, when the Israelites had been doing evil in God's sight, God allowed the Midianite people to become rulers over them. The Midianites were allowed to rule over them for seven years. They were cruel people. When the Israelites would plant crops, the Midianites would come dig them up. The Midianites took all their animals. They took their food, too, and allowed the Israelites to begin to starve. Then, the Israelites cried out to God for help.

God sent a prophet to the Israelites, who gave them this message from God: "I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of Egypt. I told you not to worship the false gods. You have not obeyed my voice." But God listened to their cry for help.

There was an Israelite man living there named Gideon. An angel came to him and said, "The Lord is with you!" The Lord spoke to Gideon and told him, "Go with the strength you have and rescue Israel from the Midianites."

Gideon had trouble believing God could use him. He said, "My family is the weakest of all the families here, and I am the least important in my whole family!" God said, "Don't worry! I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites."

Gideon asked God to show him a sign that it was really God talking to him. He wanted proof. He said to God, "If you are really going to use me to rescue Israel from the Midianites, prove it to me this way. Tonight, I will place on the ground a woolen fleece (the wool from a sheep). In the morning when I wake up, if the fleece is wet from the morning dew, but the ground is still dry, I will know it is really You Who has spoken to me and I will be able to save Israel."

In the morning, when Gideon got up, he saw that the woolen fleece was wet with the morning dew, but the ground was dry, just as he had asked. But Gideon wanted God to prove Himself again. "Don't be angry with me," Gideon said. "But could You once again prove it is really You Who is calling me to rescue Israel? I will put the fleece down again tonight. In the morning, if the fleece is completely dry, but the ground is wet, I will know it is You, the Lord God, who will use me to rescue Israel."

In the morning, the fleece was completely dry, but the ground around it was wet. Gideon had his answer from the Lord God. He knew God would use him to rescue His people, the Israelites.

Remember, God chooses us even when we think we shouldn't be chosen like Gideon.

3.08 GOD CHOOSES GIDEON - TEACHER'S GUIDE

JUDGES 6



HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) God's people, the Israelites, had been disobedient to Him. God allowed the cruel Midianites to rule over them. They took their food and allowed them to begin to starve. The people cried out to God for help.
- 2) God chose Gideon to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites. Gideon did not believe he was strong enough or important enough to do the job. God said, "I will be with you."
- 3) Gideon asked God for a sign. Gideon put a wool fleece on the ground that night and asked God to cause it to be wet with the morning moisture the next day, but to allow the ground to remain dry. God did as Gideon asked.
- 4) Gideon asked for a second sign. Gideon put the fleece on the ground a second time. He asked God to cause the wool to remain dry the next morning, but to cause the ground to be wet. Once again, God answered as Gideon asked.
- 5) Gideon knew God had chosen him to rescue the Israelite people.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What happened when the Israelites disobeyed God?
- 2) Who did God choose to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites?
- 3) When Gideon didn't believe God could use him, what did God say?
- 4) What sign did Gideon ask God to do?
- 5) What was the second sign Gideon asked God to do?

ANSWERS:

- 1) God allowed the cruel Midianites to rule them for seven years.
- 2) God chose Gideon to rescue the Israelites.
- 3) God told Gideon, "I will be with you."
- 4) Gideon put a woolen fleece out. He asked God to make the fleece wet and the ground to remain dry.
- 5) Gideon put the woolen fleece out again. He asked God this time to keep the wool dry and allow the ground to be wet.

Remember, God chooses us even when we think we shouldn't be chosen like Gideon.